

Services to intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning falls among older adults.”

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased that today the Senate will pass the Keeping Seniors Safe from Falls Act of 2004 (S. 1217) that Senator ENZI and I introduced. Falls are a serious public health problem that affects millions of seniors each year. This bill focuses on public education, research, and demonstration projects to help reduce falls by older adults.

The facts are staggering. One out of every three Americans over age 65 falls every year. In 2000, over 10,200 seniors died and approximately 1.6 million seniors visited an emergency department as a result of a fall. Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths among seniors, accounting for 64,000 traumatic brain injuries and 340,000 hip fractures each year. Falls can be financially disastrous for families, and falls place a serious financial strain on our health care system. By 2020, falls by older adults are estimated to cost the health care system more than \$32 billion.

These facts do not begin to tell the story of what falls can mean for older adults and their loved ones. Falls don't discriminate. Kay Graham was the victim of a fall. Many of us have friends or relatives who have fallen. A fall can have a devastating impact on a person's physical, emotional, and mental health. If an older woman loses her footing on her front porch steps, falls, and suffers a hip fracture, she would likely spend about two weeks in the hospital, and there is a 50 percent chance that she would not return home or live independently as a result of her injuries.

Two years ago, I chaired a hearing of the Subcommittee on Aging on the problem of falls among older adults. The subcommittee heard testimony from Lillie Marie Struchen, a 91-year-old woman who had recently fallen in her bathroom when she slipped on the tile. Lillie Marie could not reach the panic button in her apartment, and it took her some time before she could get to her feet and call for help. Lillie Marie was lucky. She recovered from her fall and returned to her normal routines. She shared with the subcommittee some steps that she and her family have taken to prevent future falls, knowing that she may not be so lucky next time.

These falls, like the ones that Lillie Marie and thousands of others suffer from each year, can be prevented. With some help, there are simple ways that seniors can improve the safety of their homes and make a fall far less likely. Home modifications like hand rails in the bathroom, rubber mats on slippery tile floors, and cordless telephones that seniors can keep nearby can make a big difference. Well-trained pharmacists can review medications to make sure that two drugs do not interact to cause dizziness and throw a senior off balance.

That's what this legislation is about—getting behind our Nation's

seniors and giving help to those who practice self-help. This bill creates public education campaigns for older adults, their families, and health care providers about how to prevent falls. It expands research on falls by older adults to develop better ways to prevent falls and to improve the treatment and rehabilitation of elder victims. This legislation also requires an evaluation of the effect of falls on health care costs, the potential for reducing falls, and the potential for reducing health care costs associated with falls.

Reducing the number of falls will help seniors live longer, healthier, more independent lives. I want to acknowledge the leadership of the National Safety Council on this issue. I also thank Senator ENZI for working with me in such a bipartisan manner to move this bill forward. The support of Senator GREGG and Senator KENNEDY was also vital in getting this bill through the Senate. I hope that our colleagues in the House will take swift action to pass this important bill this year.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the committee amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the amendment to the title be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1217), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

The title was amended so as to read:

A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning falls among older adults.

#### HONORING THE 10 COMMUNITIES RECEIVING THE 2004 ALL-AMERICAN CITY AWARD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 464.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 464) honoring the 10 communities selected to receive the 2004 All-American City Award.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 464) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

#### NATIONAL DAY OF THE HORSE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 452 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 452) designating December 13, 2004, as “National Day of the Horse” and encouraging the people of the United States to be mindful of the contribution of horses to the economy, history, and character of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 452) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

#### S. RES. 452

Whereas the horse is a living link to the history of the United States;

Whereas without horses, the economy, history, and character of the United States would be profoundly different;

Whereas horses continue to permeate the society of the United States, as witnessed on movie screens, on open land, and in our own backyards;

Whereas horses are a vital part of the collective experience of the United States and deserve protection and compassion;

Whereas because of increasing pressure from modern society, wild and domestic horses rely on humans for adequate food, water, and shelter; and

Whereas the Congressional Horse Caucus estimates that the horse industry contributes much more than \$100,000,000,000 each year to the economy of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 13, 2004, as “National Day of the Horse”, in recognition of the importance of horses to the security, economy, recreation, and heritage of the United States;

(2) encourages all people of the United States to be mindful of the contribution of horses to the economy, history, and character of the United States; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON

#### NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in